

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7187

BILL NUMBER: HB 1335

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 19, 2005

BILL AMENDED: Apr 19, 2005

SUBJECT: Annual Statistical Report on Township Assistance.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Budak

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Kruse

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the State Board of Accounts to file with the executive director of the Legislative Services Agency, a statewide statistical report in which: (1) the State Board of Accounts compares and compiles information from the annual statistical reports filed by township trustees; and (2) the Department of Local Government Finance summarizes the information compiled by the State Board of Accounts that relates to the fixing of township budgets, levies, and rates. It also requires a township trustee to provide additional information in the annual statistical report.

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The State Board of Accounts provides the form for and receives the annual statistical reports filed by townships. This bill would require the agency to compile all the township reports into one statewide annual report. The fiscal impact of this provision is dependent on the availability of appropriate staff resources. If an additional position is required by the agency, the resources could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) new appropriations. As of December 2004, the State Board of Accounts had 291 full time employees and 20 vacancies. The agency reverted approximately \$588,000 in FY 2004. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Additional resources may also be required for updating the annual statistical report form, however, additional

publishing costs should be limited because the form is available on-line.

The bill also requires the Department of Local Government Finance (Department) to provide a summary of the data compiled by the Agency that relates to the fixing of township budgets, levies, and tax rates. The Agency is to include the summary in the statewide report. The Department should be able to fulfill this requirement using existing resources; the fiscal impact, if any, would be minimal to the Department.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: According to current statute, township trustees must include in the annual statistical report information on the following types assistance provided by townships: housing, medical care, utility assistance and food assistance. This bill would require townships to include in the statistical report information on assistance received through the township but from sources other than township funds. The fiscal impact on townships for making a more detailed statistical report will vary depending on the level of accountability currently in place at each township.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Board of Accounts.

Local Agencies Affected: Townships.

Information Sources: State Budget Agency, Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Close-out Statement; State of Indiana HRM Detail Staffing Report.

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